



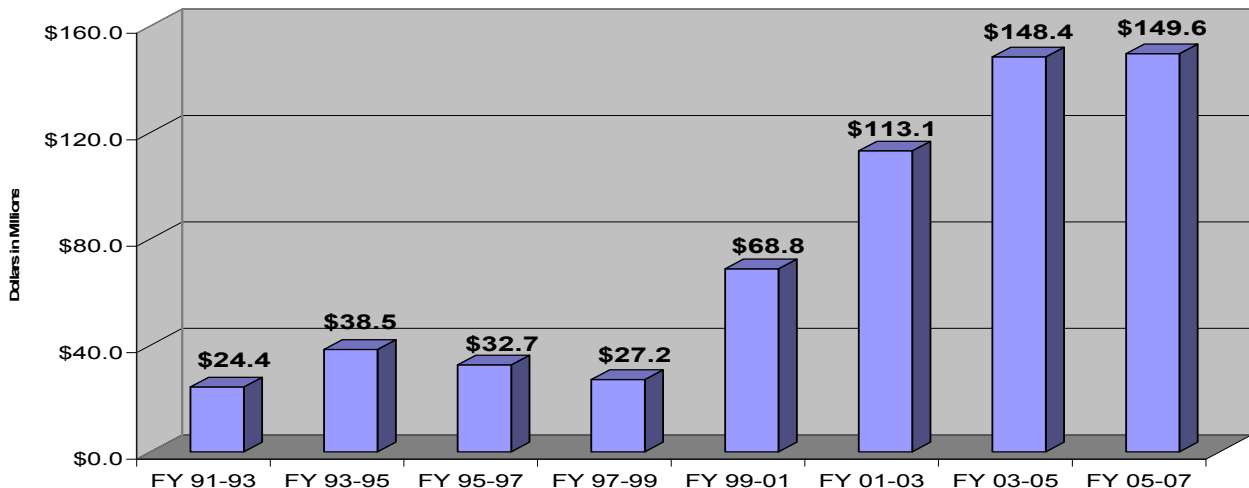
Budget Tidbits... just the facts

By Sen. Joe Zarelli, Ranking Republican
Senate Ways & Means

State Tort Liability Costs (1/11/05)

- State agencies will pay \$150 million this biennium into the self insurance liability program, which pays tort claims against the state and related defense costs.
- Washington is one of the only states with almost no immunity or damage limits.
- Costs have **increased over 500%** since the previous Attorney General took office at the end of the 1991-93 biennia.

Self Insurance Liability Premiums



* Source: OFM Risk Management Office for FY 91-93 to FY 03-05; FY 05-07 projection based on OFM July 9, 2004 memo

- What \$150 million equates to --
 - 15,000 new higher education enrollment slots
 - More than double the general fund support of state parks
 - A nearly \$100 tax cut to every family of four in the state

Bottom Line

State liability costs have skyrocketed, diverting funds from more worthwhile expenditures. This is but one area where cost savings can be achieved, negating the need to raise taxes.